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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4598  
INFO RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY 2000  
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY 2097  
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY 1107  
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY 1246

S E C R E T CAIRO 002397

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/22/2019  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [CASC](#) [ASEC](#) [EG](#)  
SUBJECT: STEEL WALL CRITICISM AND GAZA MARCHERS

REF: A. CAIRO 2391

[1B.](#) CAIRO 2396

[1C.](#) IIR 6 899 0389 09

[1D.](#) CAIRO 2325

- [1E.](#) CAIRO 1150 F. 08 CAIRO 168 G. 08 CAIRO 2502 H. CAIRO 118 I. CAIRO 3498 (2007) Classified By: DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION MATTHEW TUELLER F
- 1.(C) Key points: -- The Egyptian government continues to come under intense criticism from its domestic opposition, along with regional voices
  - 2.(C) The Egyptians began constructing a subterranean steel wall along the Egypt-Gaza border in early December (ref C). The wall is a \$40 milli
  - 3.(C) On December 10 the Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported the wall was being constructed in response to USG "pressure" on the GOE over smuggl
  - 4.(C) Egyptian MB parliamentary bloc spokesman Hamdy Hassan publicly demanded on Dec 15 that parliamentary leadership obtain an explanation frc
  - 5.(U) Regionally, Hamas leader Khalid Mishal and Hizballah leader Hassan Nasrallah both took swipes at the GOE over the wall. On December 23 Mi
  - 6.(SBU) Members of various pro-Palestinian international organizations, including "Code Pink" (American) arrived in Cairo in late December (ref
  - 7.(SBU) Following media reports that the GOE had halted construction of the steel wall as a result of public criticism, FM Aboul Gheit said on
  - 8.(C) MFA Director for Palestinian Affairs Hisham Seif el Din said on Dec 27 that MFA officials are generally concerned with the security situa
  - 9.(S/NF) Sameh Atta (protect), the advisor to the SYG of the Fawakhria Bedouin Association told poloff December 27 that people in al Arish fear
  - 10.(C) The steel wall carries a political liability that will likely continue to be exploited by some critics and the regime's domestic opposit